

Dear Ted,

8/2/85

In your letter of the 26 you say that Jim Garrison has written a book with the subtitle "The CIA and the JFK Assassination;" that he phoned and, in effect asked you to act as his agent; and that according to Mark Lane, who has seen it, "it names names." You also offered to make a copy for me or to lend it to me for me to make a copy, for which thanks but I do not want to put you to the expense and I'm not able to stand at the copier to make the copies. I can do this for a few pages only.

First and foremost, my advice is stay away! Be polite but find excuses for having nothing to do with this project. Your health, which I do think would not be helped by any involvement, is a good and probably an honest excuse.

First of all next, if Garrison can't get an agent, having published and with his position, there has to be something very, very wrong with his book. As in any event I'd be sure there is. And next, he has absolutely no basis for naming any names, which means he is subject to libel litigation, and the last thing you and Anita want is any kind of involvement, no matter how indirect, with something like that.

He has been running off at the mouth for years, never with any substance, and if he names names he has to be able to defend that, and he simply cannot. No matter how true he may believe something to be, that does not make it true and in his past naming of names, when he was cloaked with official immunity, he just was not correct. He imagined it and he then willed his imaginings into reality in his own mind and the minds of others he reached.

And why do you think he doesn't ask Lane to do this? The answer is because he knows Lane wouldn't. He has plenty of publishing connections. He also knows libel.

There is something else to be considered now: the CIA has Reagan. Remember they went after TV news under the fairness doctrine, something they never did before? I think that when more of this crazy stuff appears they are going to see the possibility of doing themselves some good and making all criticism of them seem to be wrongheaded and baseless by taking a wild one, as Garrison's will be if he names names, and suing, directly or indirectly. By indirectly I mean such things as one of these named fronting.

This will also mean some turmoil and I do not think you or Anita want any, even if there is nothing more.

The book you describe will never be published by any responsible publisher in any event. He'd spend a fortune in court and then would lose.

I'm sure Jim's book will be well written, entertaining and perhaps in some respects even persuasive, so it might be fun to read, but because he simply has no factual basis for naming names, and when he was cloaked in authority he didn't even make a real effort to establish one, it will not be factual in any event. Just more of what he imagines or theorizes.

Again thanks, and again stay away!

Heald